

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the continuation application of: Gerald N. King

Parent application number: 09/492,891 Examiner: S. Nguyen

Parent filing date: January 27, 2000 Group Art Unit: 2839

This present application number: To be assigned

This present application filing date: Concurrently herewith

Title: MODULAR GFCI RECEPTACLE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the present application, which is a continuation of parent application number 09/492,891, filed, January 27, 2000, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-35 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 36-55 (a copy of the new claims is attached herewith):

36. (New) A modular electrical component, comprising:

a base unit having:

a plurality of first terminal members; and

a plurality of second terminal members connectable to conductors

in an electrical wiring system;

a mounting strap secured to a rear cover of said base and capable of connecting said base to a junction box in the electrical wiring system;

a removable electrical device having a plurality of power contacts extending from a rear cover and capable of releasably connecting to said plurality of first terminal members, such that one of the said plurality of contacts releasably connects to one of said plurality of said first terminal members; and

a circuit interrupting portion for breaking a conductive path to a first power contact of the plurality of power contacts.

37. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said mounting strap has at least one ground terminal connection that extends into said base unit; and

wherein said removable electrical device has at least one ground contact extending from said rear cover, said at least one ground contact is capable of being releasably connected to said at least one ground terminal connection.

38. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a receptacle.

39. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a switch.

40. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a circuit interrupting device.

41. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said base unit is configured to fit within a single gang junction box in the electrical wiring system.

42. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said base unit is configured to fit within a multiple gang junction box in the electrical wiring system.

43. (New) A modular electrical component, comprising:  
a removable electrical device having a plurality of power contacts extending from a rear cover of said removable electrical device;  
a base unit configured to fit within a junction box of an electrical wiring system, said base unit having a plurality of terminal connections, wherein each terminal connection is connectable to at least one conductor in the electrical wiring system and to at least one of said power contacts;  
a mounting strap secured to a rear cover of said base unit and capable of connecting said base unit to the junction box in the electrical wiring system; and  
a circuit interrupting portion for breaking a conductive path to a first power contact of the plurality of power contacts.

44. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein said mounting strap has at least one ground terminal connection that extends into said base unit; and

wherein said removable electrical device has at least one ground contact extending from said rear cover, said at least one ground contact is capable of being releasably connected to said at least one ground terminal connection.

45. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a receptacle.

46. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a switch.

47. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a circuit interrupting device.

48. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein each of said terminal connections comprises:

a first terminal member connectable to one of said plurality of contacts extending from said rear of said removable electrical device; and

a second terminal member connectable to at least one conductor in the electrical wiring system.

49. (New) A modular electrical component, comprising:

a removable electrical device having a plurality of power contacts

extending from a rear cover of said removable electrical device;

connecting means configured to fit within a junction box of an electrical wiring system for connecting said plurality of power contacts to at least one conductor in the electrical wiring system;

mounting means associated with said connecting means for mounting said connecting means to the junction box in the electrical wiring system; and

a circuit interrupting portion for breaking a conductive path to a first power contact of the plurality of power contacts.

50. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said removable electrical device has at least one ground contact extending from said rear cover; and

wherein said mounting means includes means for connecting said at least one ground contact to a ground of said electrical wiring system.

51. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a receptacle.

52. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a switch.

53. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a circuit interrupting device.

54. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 53, wherein said circuit interrupting device comprises:

a housing;

means associated with said plurality of power contacts for conducting electricity between a line side and a load side of said circuit interrupting device;

circuit interrupting means for breaking continuity between said line side and said load side of said circuit interrupting device upon the occurrence of a predetermined condition; and

reset means for reestablishing electrical continuity between said line side and said load side of said circuit interrupting device.

55. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said connecting means comprises:

a plurality of terminal connections, each terminal connection having:

a first terminal member connectable to one of said plurality of contacts extending from said rear of said removable electrical device; and

a second terminal member connectable to at least one conductor in the electrical wiring system.

REMARKS

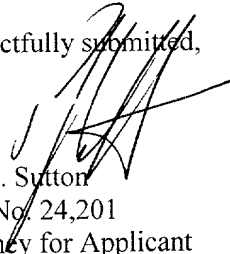
Claims 1-35 are canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 36-55 are added.

Claims 36-55 are pending.

Claims 36-55 are drawn from the parent application as originally filed, including the subject matter of claims 1-5, 12-18, 24-30, and 35, respectively, of the parent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Entry and favorable consideration of this preliminary amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: October 26, 2001

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FOOTNOTES

COPY OF NEW CLAIMS

Claims 1-35 are canceled, and new claims 36-55 are added.

36. (New) A modular electrical component, comprising:

a base unit having:

a plurality of first terminal members; and

a plurality of second terminal members connectable to conductors

in an electrical wiring system;

a mounting strap secured to a rear cover of said base and capable of connecting said base to a junction box in the electrical wiring system:

a removable electrical device having a plurality of power contacts extending from a rear cover and capable of releasably connecting to said plurality of first terminal members, such that one of the said plurality of contacts releasably connects to one of said plurality of said first terminal members; and

a circuit interrupting portion for breaking a conductive path to a first power contact of the plurality of power contacts.

37. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said mounting strap has at least one ground terminal connection that extends into said base unit; and

wherein said removable electrical device has at least one ground contact extending from said rear cover, said at least one ground contact is capable of being releasably connected to said at least one ground terminal connection.



38. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a receptacle.

39. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a switch.

40. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a circuit interrupting device.

41. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said base unit is configured to fit within a single gang junction box in the electrical wiring system.

42. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 36, wherein said base unit is configured to fit within a multiple gang junction box in the electrical wiring system.

43. (New) A modular electrical component, comprising:  
a removable electrical device having a plurality of power contacts  
extending from a rear cover of said removable electrical device;  
a base unit configured to fit within a junction box of an electrical wiring  
system, said base unit having a plurality of terminal connections, wherein each terminal

connection is connectable to at least one conductor in the electrical wiring system and to at least one of said power contacts;

a mounting strap secured to a rear cover of said base unit and capable of connecting said base unit to the junction box in the electrical wiring system; and

a circuit interrupting portion for breaking a conductive path to a first power contact of the plurality of power contacts.

44. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein said mounting strap has at least one ground terminal connection that extends into said base unit; and

wherein said removable electrical device has at least one ground contact extending from said rear cover, said at least one ground contact is capable of being releasably connected to said at least one ground terminal connection.

45. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a receptacle.

46. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a switch.

47. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a circuit interrupting device.

48. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 43, wherein each of said terminal connections comprises:

a first terminal member connectable to one of said plurality of contacts extending from said rear of said removable electrical device; and

a second terminal member connectable to at least one conductor in the electrical wiring system.

49. (New) A modular electrical component, comprising:

a removable electrical device having a plurality of power contacts extending from a rear cover of said removable electrical device;

connecting means configured to fit within a junction box of an electrical wiring system for connecting said plurality of power contacts to at least one conductor in the electrical wiring system;

mounting means associated with said connecting means for mounting said connecting means to the junction box in the electrical wiring system; and

a circuit interrupting portion for breaking a conductive path to a first power contact of the plurality of power contacts.

50. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said removable electrical device has at least one ground contact extending from said rear cover; and

wherein said mounting means includes means for connecting said at least one ground contact to a ground of said electrical wiring system.

51. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a receptacle.

52. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a switch.

53. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said removable electrical device comprises a circuit interrupting device.

54. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 53, wherein said circuit interrupting device comprises:

a housing;

means associated with said plurality of power contacts for conducting electricity between a line side and a load side of said circuit interrupting device;

circuit interrupting means for breaking continuity between said line side and said load side of said circuit interrupting device upon the occurrence of a predetermined condition; and

reset means for reestablishing electrical continuity between said line side and said load side of said circuit interrupting device.

55. (New) The modular electrical component according to claim 49, wherein said connecting means comprises:

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a plurality of terminal connections, each terminal connection having:

a first terminal member connectable to one of said plurality of  
contacts extending from said rear of said removable electrical device; and

a second terminal member connectable to at least one conductor in  
the electrical wiring system.

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